



MEETING MINUTES

14 August 2012

Committee Members Present: Beck Beckwith, Joy Cipriano, Wayne Cox, Marti Chick-Ebey, Pete Fairchild, John Gately, Andy Greenwell, Ed Hicks, Libby Kendrick, Peggy Mertz, Eric Moyer, Burnie Peters, John Pritchard, Bill Tucker, and Chuck Valliant.

City Representatives Present: Ann Bane, Will Moffett, and Jim Wilson

Visitors: Command Chief Master Sergeant Gary Carter, First Fighter Wing, JBLE
Rochelle Crockett, Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) Coordinator, Fort Eustis
Eric Endries, Region V Director, Virginia Wounded Warrior

- I. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Review and Approval of 10 July 2012 Minutes. Wayne Cox made the motion for approval, seconded by Beck Beckwith and unanimously endorsed.
- III. Guest Speaker. Boyd Duncan of Casemate Museum Foundation (CMF) of Fort Monroe Museum addressed four relationships, "where we are and where we want to be." He assured everyone that the museum is open for business, since Army left September 15, 2011, typically from 10:30 AM - 4:30 PM, normally 362 days a year.
 - A. On the Museum and Army. The Casemate Museum is an Army museum with artifacts owned by Army with a three-member staff. Two decision dates are penciled onto the calendar, September 15, 2013 and September 15, 2015. In 2013, Army will look at where they stand in terms of manning and loaning of artifacts to the museum. In 2015, the Army will terminate their relationship with the museum, other than being the lender of the artifacts.
 - B. On the Museum and Fort Monroe Authority (FMA). The FMA early recognized importance of museum, Hiring an employee of theirs to serve in the museum., Another will start Thursday in August, exercising responsibility for facilities (building and infrastructure). Further, the FMA is in process of hiring a part-time educator before the end of the year to the facilitate relationship between schools and museum, using it as an educational resource. In four to five months, the American Association of Museums will conduct an assessment to determine how the museum is doing in meeting Army

Hampton Military Affairs Committee

requirements, particularly in safeguarding its artifacts. The desire is that the Army will allow artifacts stay under FMA and ultimately to get accreditation of the museum through the American Association of Museums. More can be learned about the FMA by accessing their Website address fmauthority.com.

- C. On the Museum and the National Park Service. On November 1, President Obama designated Ft Monroe a National Historical Monument, the first step in designating it as a National Park. The National Park Service recently placed a second employee at Fort Monroe. They are currently preparing a Foundation Document to lay out the basic concept for their view of the national park at Fort Monroe and they are looking closely at incorporating the African-American experience at Fort Monroe within it. That document is due in late in the fall. The museum will ensure that it fits that vision, whatever it might be.
- D. On the Fort Monroe Casemate Museum Foundation's mission to support the museum. Founded in 1983, it currently meets museum needs that that Army "either didn't do or couldn't do." Providing consistent signage for the museum is an example. They have recently added a LTC Emory Upton exhibit (he was at artillery school after the Civil War) and are working another exhibit on the end of the era of Army service at the installation. Items in that display will include the last American flag flown above the post in September 15, 2010, and the uniform of the last installation commander, Colonel Anthony Reyes.
- E. Other items of interest. The museum is always interested in finding new docents. Call (757) 788-3391 to learn more. The same phone number can be used to arrange for a guided tour. The Casemate Museum is essentially Fort Monroe's "anchor store because "it is pretty much the only show in town." It is doing well with visitation to the museum up roughly 25% from last year. In summary, Boyd emphasized that "Everyone at Fort Monroe is working together to try to meet common objectives."

IV. Meet a Member of the MAC -- Pete Fairchild.

- A. Born in Syracuse, NY, he attended school there, enrolled in ROTC in college, and was commissioned in 1966, serving eighteen months Vietnam, beginning in 1967.
- B. He joined the National Guard in his home state and city in 1970. In 1980, chosen by the National Guard Bureau to serve on active duty. He served in Fort Hood, Texas, 2-3 years, and then HQ, TRADOC in 1983. He then served in Fort Knox, 1985-88 and in the Pentagon 88-93, working within DCOPS, Office of Assistant Secretary of Defense, and then back to TRADOC in 1993, specifically to the Louisiana Maneuvers Task Force under General Tommy Franks (our own Chuck Valliant was civilian deputy director there at the time).
- C. Retired in 1996, he joined VSO's including the VFW and MOPH. In 2001, he was part of an effort to bring a half-scale Vietnam Memorial Wall to American Legion Post 31 --

Hampton Military Affairs Committee

Andy Greenwell, Bill Tucker, the late Harry T. Butts, Neil McInnis, "and other great comrades" were part of the effort in bring the memorial in spring 2002.

- D. Pete used the occasion to applaud those principally responsible for naming the building in which we typically meet in honor of 1LT Ruppert Sargent. He was the first native Hamptonian to win the Congressional Medal of Honor (CMH), awarded posthumously, two years of his death on March 15, 1967. Andy Greenwell, Working with Bill Wilson, Dr. Alvin Bryant, Brian Deprofio and others, worked with Ruppert Sargent's wife and the surviving members of B Co, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry. In October 2002, Hampton had a grand opening and dedication of the building which included a jet-flyover. One speaker was Major Watty N. Smith of Etowah, Tennessee, who wrote the first draft of the citation that ultimately resulted in the award of the CMH. The Committee working the issue raised \$50,000, or a bit more, to create a sculpture of Ruppert Sargent and two of his fellow soldiers. The sculptor was Steve Prince of the Art faculty at Hampton University. Joe Galloway, co-author with retired General Hal Moore, of "We Were Soldiers Once and Young" was featured speaker. Andy Greenwell mentioned that the Army provided a permanent loan of the CMH. Our MAC speaker, Boyd Duncan, mentioned that in October 1965 in infantry branch Officer Candidate School, he and Ruppert Sargent were classmate. As a result, Boyd was one of first to learn of the loss of his classmate.

V. Chairman's Remarks.

- A. MAC Monthly Planning Sessions and "A Day of Remembrance and Hope" Planning Sessions continue on the 8th floor of City Hall.
- B. We solicit everyone's attendance and active support for the eleventh observance of "A Day of Remembrance and Hope" at 0800, Tuesday, September 11th, Gosnold's Hope Park. Every year we start again, with commonalities year to year, and there is a significant volunteer base needed to bring things together each year. Again, we than Arnold Lorea for their remarkable work to support the event.
- C. The guest speaker for our monthly meeting at 5 PM, September 11th will be Dame Mary Sigillo Barraco, an amazing American with a very stirring story. When her adopted country of Belgium was seized by the Nazis, though American born, Mrs. Barraco offered her services to the Belgian underground and served with the Resistance. Captured by the Germans, she was shipped to Nazi prison camps in both Belgium and France, where she was subjected to savage and merciless experiments and torture. This kind, soft-spoken and courageous lady is an unwavering American patriot, offering bold testimony both to the blessings of freedom and the calamity of its loss. Please join us and invite others to hear the story of this extraordinary woman, ideally suited by experience and disposition to address our group and others on Patriots' Day.
- D. At 9 AM, Thursday, August 9th, H.E.L.P. held a ground-breaking ceremony of the H.E.L.P. Day Center, 1421 W. Pembroke Avenue in Hampton. The 5700 square foot facility, offering chaplaincy and pastoral counseling, in addition to other forms of counseling and support, will also provide laundry and shower facilities for the local

Hampton Military Affairs Committee

homeless and has a goal of promoting self-sufficiency among current homeless. Roughly \$350,000 is dedicated to the build-out of this facility, expected to take roughly four months.

- E. At 11 AM, Thursday, August 9th. Fire Station 11 Grand Opening, 1314 Big Bethel Road. This 14,500-square-foot station facility with three large apparatus bays, six bunk rooms, a place for exercise, a kitchen and a room for meeting.
- F. OEF/OIF Welcome Home Job Fair, August 10, Hampton VA Medical Center. Excellent opportunity to our veterans and rather well attended.
- G. 10 August. Grand Opening, New Spinal Cord Unit, Hampton VAMC, the world's finest spinal cord unit, "absolutely incredible." Nice, oversized rooms, individual rooms for those who elect it, special enlarged individual bathrooms,

VI. Upcoming Events

- A. 10 AM - 2 PM, Tuesday, August 14. Military.com Career Expo, Omni Hotel, 100 Omni Blvd, Newport News
- B. 9 AM, Saturday, October 13, 2012 Phoebe Days Parade. Peggy and Pete will ride in the car Jim Wilson will provide. Our own Libby Kendrick serve as a clown in the parade as "Miss Phoebe."
- C. 9 AM, Tuesday, August 21. Meeting on Veterans' Construction Project. Through the Hampton MAC, a home-improvement and construction project and services retailer, which prefers to remain anonymous, is offering its help to local (preferably Hampton-based) veterans in need. The firm will provide both labor and materials. Their intent, at this stage of the planning process, is to commit to at least one project per quarter over a twelve-month period. They could take on even more projects, if availability of manpower and funding resources allow. Perhaps you know vets who live in homes now that can no longer navigate, getting up and down stairs as an example, and they will require some home modifications to stay in those home, relocating to the first floor, as an example. Those of the kinds of veteran needs this company wants to meet. WWII, Korean and Vietnam War vets seem particularly likely candidates, but most recent veterans and wounded warriors are also most eligible for support.
- D. 11 AM, Friday, September 14th, Day of Caring BBQ, Gazebo, Hampton VA Medical Center (HVAMC)
- E. 9 AM - Noon, Monday, October 22, Annual Volunteer Orientation, HVAMC Building 83

Hampton Military Affairs Committee

F. 9 AM - Noon or 6 PM - 9PM, October 23, Annual Volunteer Orientation, HVAMC Building 83

G. 10 AM, Monday, October 29, 2012, Seniors Officers and Commanders Meeting, HVAMC Building 83

VII. New Business. City Staff Reports, Updates and Reviews. John Gately mentioned that he and others on the MAC had long held the view that use of portions of Fort Monroe for veterans support activities would be welcome. Yet, in retrospect, that was perhaps not as prudent as other options, as introducing a facility for possibly infirm veterans into a flood-prone area would be less than prudent. Will Moffett mentioned that the city wants to take care of veterans and "the counterproposal that the City has offered is really solid." John asked if there was any need for further discussion of the issue. It has been handed off to appropriate authority, Hampton is taking the issue seriously and wants to see the facility within its city-boundaries. Bruce Sturk offered these written remarks about Veterans Care Facility on Fort Monroe: The city continues to support many important activities related to veterans.

- A. The city is very pleased with what the FMA and Governor's spouse are doing in support of veterans. The "Freedom Support Center" being located in Building 77 at Fort Monroe will offer a one stop shop for veterans as it will house programs like Wounded Warriors and Operation Homefront. We believe this type of activity is of great service to the veterans.
- B. The city is concerned with the FMA's desire to potentially provide land at Fort Monroe to the State Department of Veterans Services to build a State Veterans Care Center on Fort Monroe. While we very much support having a Veteran Care Center in Hampton, city staff does not believe Fort Monroe is the appropriate location. The area of Fort Monroe being considered for the Care Center is prone to flooding during severe weather conditions. Within the last 8 years, Hampton has issued mandatory evacuations for low lying areas such as Fort Monroe during 5 different storms. We believe the evacuation of 240 patients, which would include those in long term and Alzheimer's/dementia care, would inevitably become a serious problem for the Commonwealth, the Fort Monroe Authority and the City of Hampton.

The city is working on a proposal that would offer the State Department of Veterans Services two possible alternative sites in Hampton that we believe are more suitable for the Veterans Care Center. Again we would welcome the opportunity to have a State Veteran Care Center located in Hampton.

The proposed site would be what is commonly referred to as the North Gate area.

Status

- The State Veterans Care Facility is to be funded with 75% federal funds and 25% state funds

Hampton Military Affairs Committee

- While the State funds have been approved, the federal dollars have not yet be awarded
- The project - slated to be in Hampton Roads (HR) - was ranked the highest on the new construction projects in the Federal FY 2012 process. However, the available dollars were consumed by projects on the higher priority list that rated improvements to existing facilities
- While there is no guarantee, State officials are assuming that the HR project will remain the highest ranked new construction facility when the Federal FY 2013 lists a released. Since the Federal FY 2012 funds did cover all existing improvement projects, there is a strong belief that the project will be able to proceed in FY 2013. There is the possibility that other improvements to existing projects may be submitted and "bump" this project in FY 2013 although State officials do not believe this is likely.

Concerns with Fort Monroe Location

1. Patient Safety and Care

- Major concerns over the site elevation and flood plain: the majority of the proposed site is 4' – 5' above sea level
- Only two evacuation routes that are subject to potential flooding as well as major congestion in the event of an evacuation
- FM site would require major evacuation planning and that there would be constant and recurring evacuations
- Constant and recurring evacuations are disruptive to the patients (veterans) in regards to their care, some studies from other areas where frequent evacuations have occurred in nursing homes indicate the patients suffer various mental and health related issues
- Based on storm damages patients could be required to remain offsite for extended periods of time while roads are cleared, facilities refurbished etc.
- Facility issues with regards to backup power, water etc. And sufficient on site storage for evacuation supplies, transportation etc.
- Could the facility sustain a "shelter in place"?
- Significant costs for transportation and offsite housing need to be factored into the budget
- The National Organization, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, that is responsible for certifying facilities and standards of care at nursing homes, would likely have serious concerns with the Fort Monroe site.

2. General Concerns

- Master planning process is not yet complete so it is unclear whether this use would complement or detract from over considered uses such as the NPS and the STEAM Academy
- The site would consume 18 acres of limited, developable land with no revenue contribution to the FM infrastructure and other economic needs - therefore, such a decision would hamper larger economic sustainability goal

VIII. Open Discussion

Hampton Military Affairs Committee

- A. Ann Bane said that the school system gearing up for a new school year right after Labor Day, "very excited about another school year." Thank you for ongoing support. Planning an event for Veterans Day weekend and we're looking at the possibility of incorporating some activity associated with veterans and families.
- B. Neil McInnis said he was amazed at the sudden concern about water damage at Fort Monroe and the impact it might have on a veterans' facility. "To deny a ready fix for our homeless veterans, I think it's hogwash, there are realtors into getting things rented and leased. It would be a great place, the vets could be transported to and from, there are recreational options. "I keep a tempered ear about all this. I think there's a plot within this city with developers and they wouldn't want to house dirty veterans." John Gately replied that both publically and privately, he sees support of veterans by all involved. Will Moffett mentioned that he worked at Ft Monroe for 31 years and feels that a one-story facility there is "probably not the best idea," and, further, the City of Hampton does not control Ft Monroe and has only two seats on the Fort Monroe Authority, gubernatorial appointments.
- C. Rochelle Crockett mentioned that Sunday, September 30th is National Gold Star Mothers Day. John reiterated that if there is anything the MAC can do for those mothers, anytime, please tell us.
- D. Beck Beckwith's shared recollections and photos of President Obama's unscheduled visit to VFW Post 3219 in Phoebus on July 13th. Beck was recently re-elected as commander of that post..
- E. Eric Endries mentioned that two Vista positions are being filled for the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program Region V staff. The new hires, who should be helping with marketing and volunteer orientations, are expected "to come on board next week."
- F. Bill Tucker mentioned that he "had come up with the idea" of forming a MAC years ago and he recommended that the MAC recognize Ross Kearney for his role in helping to initiate the MAC. John Gately mentioned that in an earlier telephone conversation, the former mayor and City councilman had tried to deflect credit to a former member of City Council, Charlie Sapp. While Charlie has apparently moved out of state, Ross remains in the area and, while reluctant to receive recognition for his role, has agreed to attend a later meeting for that purpose.

**Next MAC Planning Session: 11 AM, Thursday, 6 September 2012
Lawson Conference Room, 8th Floor, City Hall**

**Next MAC Meeting: 5 PM, Tuesday, 11 September 2012
1st Floor Veterans Conference Room, Ruppert Sargent Building, 1 Franklin Street, Hampton**